GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3342
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION BY COCA COLA
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the serious environmental pollution caused by the sludge produced at coca cola India`s factory in Kerala`s Palakkad district containing dangerous chemicals and pollution water supplies, the land and the food chain;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure ecological balance in the region ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There have been media reports that the sludge supplied by the bottling unit of M/s Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Limited located at Plachimada, Pallakkad district,Kerala to farmers for use as fertilizer contains `dangerous levels of Cadmium and Lead`.

(c) The sludge and effluent generated by the Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Limited, Palakkad were analysed by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) recently. As per the analysis report,while the levels of Cadmium and Lead are within permissible limits in the effluent, the level of Cadmium in the sludge is higher than the permissible levels. KSPCB has therefore classified the sludge generated by this unit as a hazardous waste and has instructed the unit not to let the sludge out of their premises and not to use it as manure even within the factory premises. The unit has complied with the directions of the KSPCB.